

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, the Office Action Summary page indicates that claims 1-11 are pending in the application. However, claims 12-26 are also pending, although they have been withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter.

Claims 3, 4 and 7-11 have been amended to make editorial changes, placing them in more convention form according to U.S. practice.

New claims 27-33 have been added to the application and correspond to original claims 1-7, respectively, except that the new claims are directed to a process for preparing the modified cyclic aliphatic polyamine.

The rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Brytus (US 4,751,278) is respectfully traversed.

Since the modified cyclic aliphatic polyamine of the present invention is obtained by the reaction between an amino group of a cyclic aliphatic polyamine and an alkenyl group of an alkenyl compound, it inevitably has an ethyleneamino moiety (-NH-CH₂-CH₂-).

On the other hand, Brytus discloses an adduct which is the reaction product of a monoepoxide and a diamine. Since the reaction product of Brytus is obtained by the reaction between an amino group of the diamine and an epoxy group of the monoepoxide, it inevitably has a hydroxyalkyl amino moiety (-NH-CH₂-CH(OH)-), but it cannot have an ethyleneamino moiety (-NH-CH₂-CH₂-). This is not merely a difference of processes, but a difference of structures of the products derived from different processes.

Thus, the subject matter in claims 1 to 7 is not anticipated by Brytus.

The advantages of using a modified polyamine having no OH groups are that compared with the reaction products having the same molar ratio of modification, the viscosity of the reaction products having OH groups is usually higher than those having no OH groups. When used as an epoxy resin curing agent, the compounds having lower viscosity can provide an epoxy resin composition having excellent workability. Since the

modified cyclic aliphatic polyamine of the present invention does not have OH groups, it has lower viscosity and is useful as an epoxy resin curing agent.

Attention is also directed to new claims 27-33, which are directed to a process for preparing the modified cyclic aliphatic polyamine by the addition reaction of a cyclic aliphatic polyamine and an alkenyl compound. On the other hand, Brytus only discloses the reaction of a monoepoxide and a diamine. It is apparent that the subject matter of the new claims is patentable over the Brytus reference.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the ground of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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